

The Common Crane (*Grus grus*) I have seen over and over again leave the Kangra swamps fly right over my house in Dharmasala and go over the Dhoulā Dhar at 14,000 ft. in small lots varying from one pair to a dozen birds. This migration, perhaps only a local one, took place invariably in the middle of May.

I have watched eagles on migration on two occasions. Where they crossed over into the Kangra District I do not know, but I imagine over the Humpta Pass into Kulu, as one of the flights I saw was above Naggar, in Kulu, and the other over the Mandi State hills near Jathingri. On both occasions all the birds flew in single file, one behind the other; sometimes close to each other, or followed by long gaps of a minute or two. All the birds were young Imperials in the lineated plumage, and strangely enough all flew with wings half flexed and each passed over practically the same ground, to within a few feet, as the one before it. Not one more than just turned its head as it went passed, to look at a dead chikor I threw out, and none took any notice of a sparrowhawk sitting on a rock devouring a dead chikor. They were just not feeding.

I have frequently seen duck (species unidentified) flying at a great height obviously following the course of a river very far below but not going down to it.

From my limited experience I should say as many birds fly high over the mountains as keep to the courses of rivers. With larger birds such as geese, cranes, spoonbills, etc. I would say by far the most go straight over the ranges, and thus take the shortest route. To go along the course of any river would double and treble the distance for no advantage. Besides there are very few places on the way where a big gaggle of geese, for instance, could find sufficient space to rest or feed until they reach the plains of India, so it would be infinitely better for them to get there by the shortest route.

Does rarified atmosphere worry them at all? I do not know, but very obviously they do not seem to be affected one way or the other at 14,000 to 15,000 ft. and an extra thousand or so would take them over almost any pass in the Himalaya. I agree with you, however, that many more birds than we know of, must cross the passes at much higher levels than they need and I am pretty certain in my own mind that a far larger number take the direct route *across* the mountain ranges than those which follow the courses of rivers, and thus run the risk of being hemmed in on both sides by mountains, and at a considerable disadvantage from the attacks of birds of prey.

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## 8. BIRDS NESTING ON TELEGRAPH WIRES

With reference to Miscellaneous Note No. 10 in Vol. 50, No. 3, during 1943 and 1944 when travelling between Gauhati and Manipur Road on the Assam Railway several colonies of Bayas (*Ploceus philippinus*) were observed nesting on the telegraph wires along the railway. They